

REIKO SHIMIZU

秘

密



ト ッ フ シ レ ッ ト

# THE TOP SECRET

清水玲子 10



# 秘密 トッピ・シークレット 密

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END GAME

REIKO SHIMIZU

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2010

END GAME

THE TOP SECRET



REIKO SHIMIZU

秘... 密

2010

END GAME

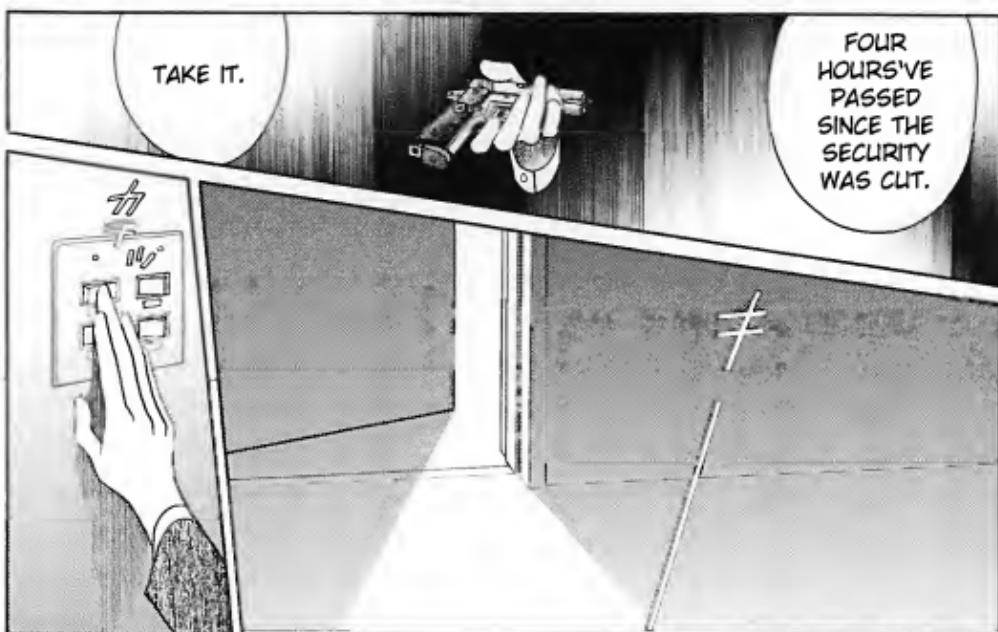
THE TOP SECRET

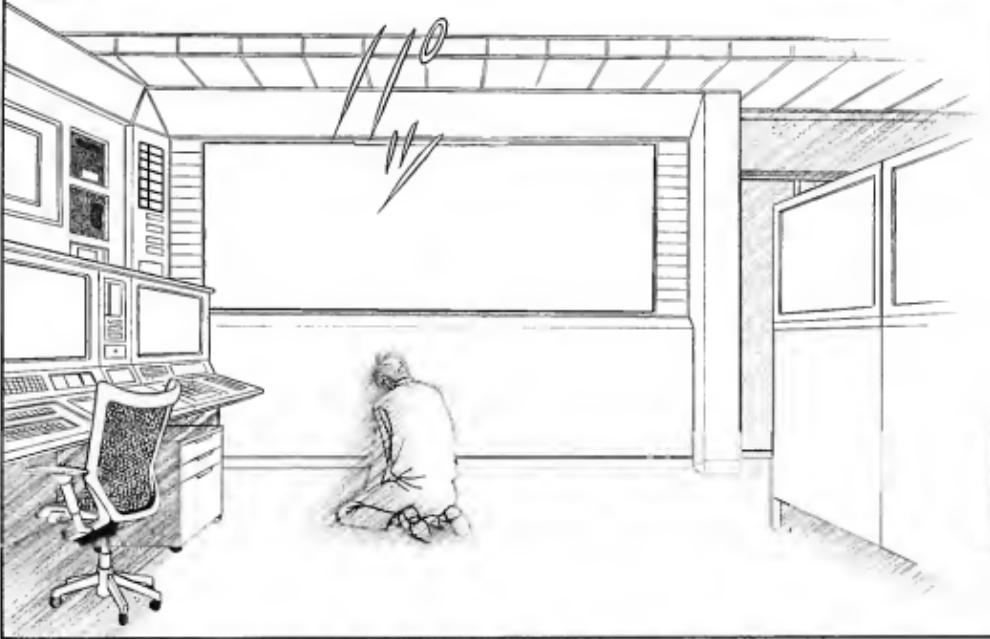


R E I K O S H I M I Z U  
T H E T O P S E C R E T











A!



MAKI-SAN...

MAKI-SAN...

I  
CAN'T  
TAKE  
IT...

TO  
SHOOT  
MY  
BRAIN.

SO  
IT'S UP  
TO YOU,

I CAN'T TAKE  
IT, I CAN'T DO  
IT MYSELF.

SHOOT  
MY  
HEAD...



JUST  
SO...

DON'T!

AOKI!

NO ONE ELSE  
CAN SEE THESE  
HORRIBLE  
IMAGES AGAIN.

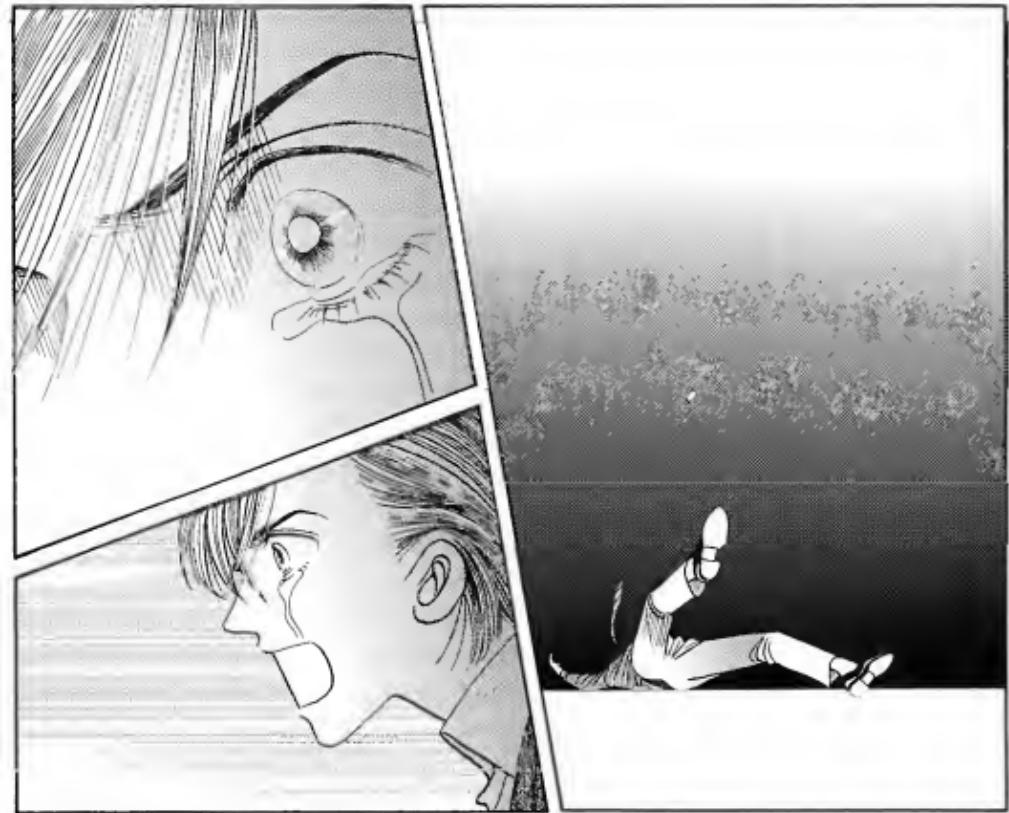
NO  
ONE...

AOKI...











AOKI  
!!







Good morning.  
It's Thursday,  
June 22nd.

Today let's start with the newest picture of Uyghur scholar, Mr. Iriham Hilal Ayi with the family. Since 2050, for over 10 years he stayed under house arrest.



Mr. Iriham Hilal Ayi, a professor at Xinjiang University is the leader of anti-government movement in Chimenzaal, a region that gained independence from China. Since 2050,



AFTER FOUR DAYS, THE NEWS FINALLY MOVED OVER TO THE PROFESSOR. HANDSOME WITH THE PEACE NOBEL PRICE, HUH?

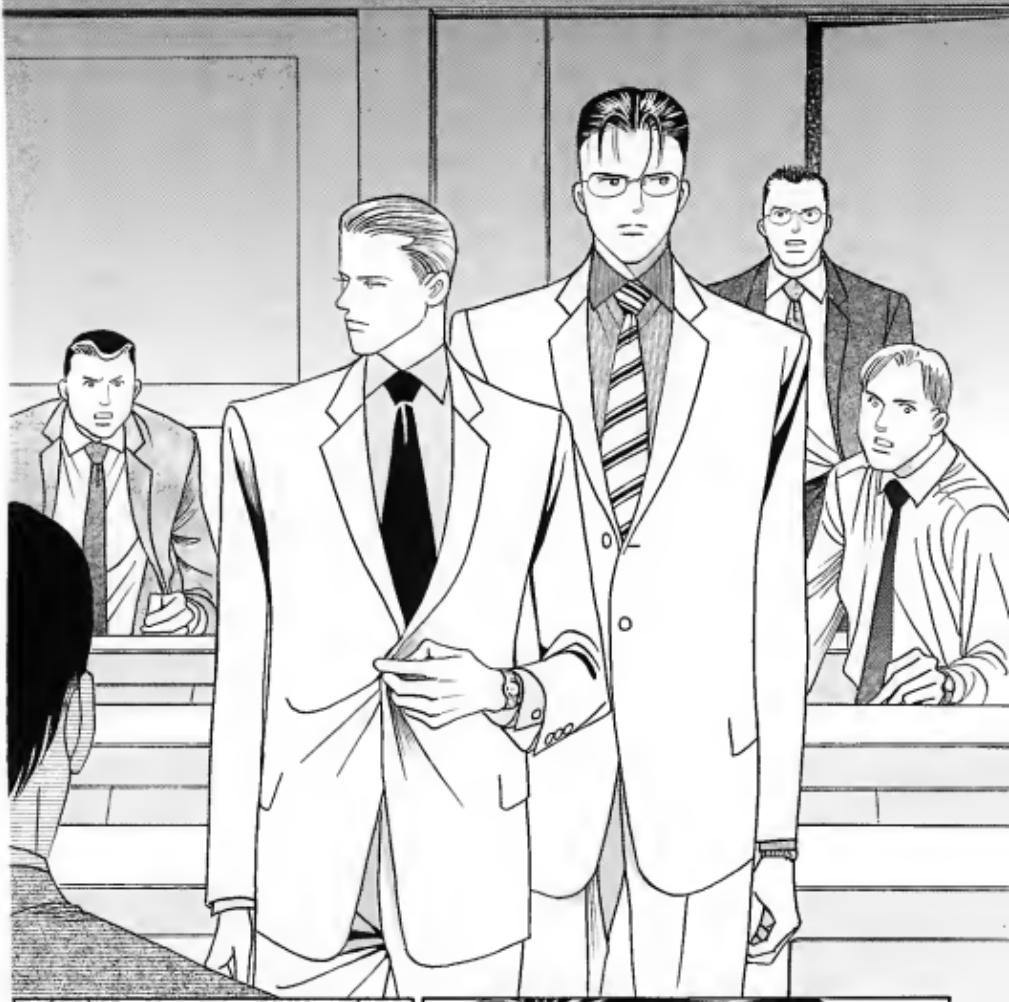
SO WE'RE ONLY WAITING FOR 'THE NINTH'?

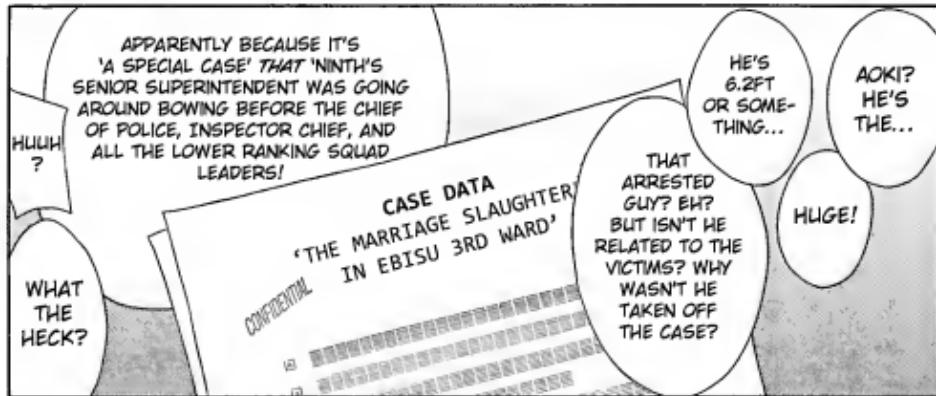
WE FOUND NOTHING FOR THE GRUDGE, DEBT OR THEFT LEADS, WE'RE IN A STUMP ...

TURN OFF THAT TV, THE MEETING'S STARTING!

He's also leading the democratization process in the former Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Chimenzaal...







IF YOU ANGER HIM YOU MIGHT GET KILLED LIKE HIS SUBORDINATE THREE YEARS AGO!

THAT GUY'S REAL TROUBLE... HE'S CRAZY, YOU KNOW!

AOKI, DON'T MIND THEM ...

BEING MADE TO GO ALONG WITH 'THE NINTH'S FAVORITISM?

ARE THEY ALRIGHT WITH IT?

SO IF THE PRETTY SUPERINTENDENT BOWS FOR THEM, EVERYTHING GOES? WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE?



AOKI!!!



I THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT DESPITE SHOOTING HIS SUBORDINATE TO DEATH HE DIDN'T GET DEMOTED OR PUNISHED...

DIFFERENT THAN US, REGULAR RANKING GUYS WHO CAN'T EVEN ISSUE A WARNING SHOT WITHOUT A SCRATCH TO THEIR RECORDS,



THEY CAN'T GO AGAINST IT OFFICIALLY SO THEY'RE DOWN TO JEERING, DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

THESE GUYS ARE JUST AFRAID THAT 'THE NINTH'LL COMPLETELY TAKE THE LEAD OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THEY'LL HAVE TO GO ALONG WITHOUT EVEN TAKING OUT A BADGE.



BUT NOW I  
WONDER WHAT  
DID HE HAVE TO  
DO TO BRING A  
FORMER PRIMARY  
SUSPECT TO THE  
INVESTIGATION?





YOU  
SHUT UP,  
OR WE'LL  
NEVER  
HEAR THE  
END OF IT.

HE,



IT WAS  
A DECISION  
OF NOT  
SENTIMENT,  
BUT  
REASON.

THAT'S  
IT.

HIS SUPPORT IS NECESSARY FOR ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE 'MARRIAGE SLAUGHTERED IN EBISU' AND THE 'HOUSEHOLD MASSACRE' CASES. THAT'S WHY THE CHIEF OF POLICE, INSPECTOR CHIEF, AND ALL THE LOWER RANKING SQUAD LEADERS ALLOWED AND ORDERED AOKI TO PARTAKE IN THE INVESTIGATION, WITH ONE CONDITION - THAT HE'LL ONLY INVESTIGATE THE MRI IN THE 'HOUSEHOLD MASSACRE' CASE.

IT'S DAMN ANNOYING!

IF ANY OF YOU STILL HAVE COMPLAINTS, TELL THAT TO YOUR SUPERVISOR DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF JEERING HERE!

If you broke the regulations, I'd have to report that to the top branch...

You'll take Aoki off the investigation, right?

HEY, THE CHIEFS ARE HERE!

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

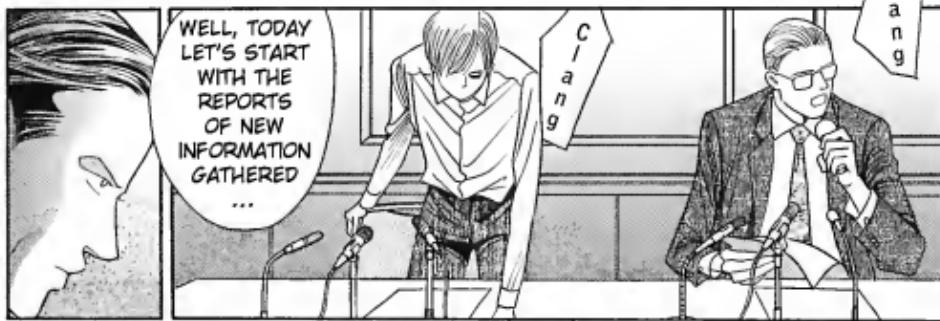
WHAT?

RAISE!

IT'S STARTING !



But I still don't get that Takizawa guy.





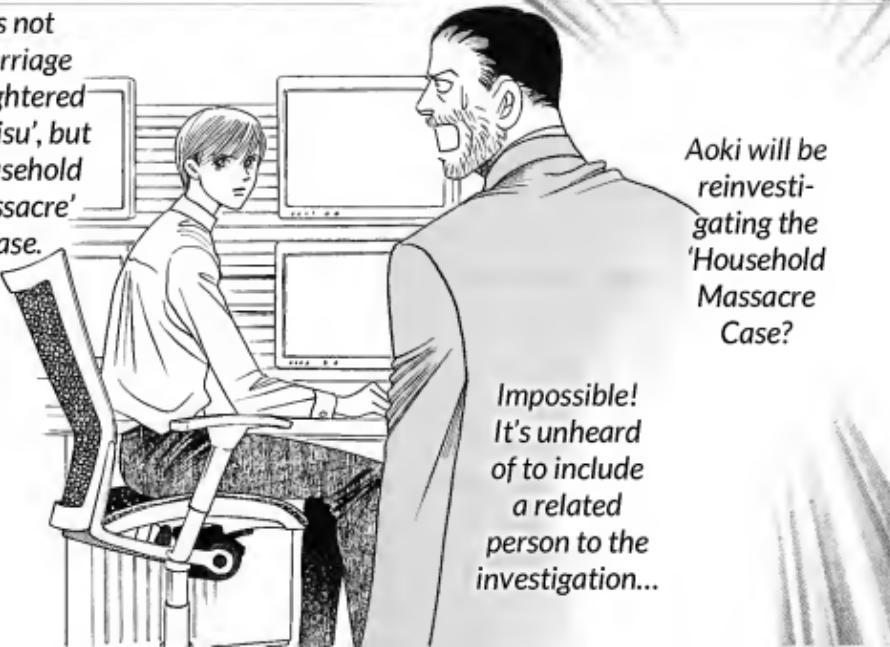
Aoki...



It's not  
'Marriage  
slaughtered  
in Ebisu', but  
'Household  
Massacre'  
case.

Aoki will be  
reinvesti-  
gating the  
'Household  
Massacre  
Case'?

Impossible!  
It's unheard  
of to include  
a related  
person to the  
investigation...



IS IT  
OKAY,  
FOR YOU  
TO BE  
DOING  
ALL  
THIS?

OF COURSE HE'LL  
BE REMOVED FROM  
THE 'EBISU' MRI  
INVESTIGATION AND  
OTHER MEMBERS  
WILL WATCH IT.

IN THAT CASE,  
AOKI IS NOT  
CONNECTED TO  
THE VICTIMS NOR  
ANYONE RELATED,  
SO THERE'S NO  
PROBLEM. HIS  
QUESTIONING IS  
OVER NOW,  
SO I'M ALREADY  
TALKING IT OVER  
WITH THE TOP.

INDEED  
THESE TWO  
CASES ARE  
CONNECTED,  
SO IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE TO  
CUT OFF AOKI  
COMPLETELY  
FROM THE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE  
'EBISU' CASE...

NO, THAT'S  
NOT...

YOU'VE  
SEEN IT  
TOO.

THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I  
MEAN,

THAT DAY  
AT THE  
FUNERAL...

AND I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU...

I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
AOKI.



EVEN THOUGH IT  
WASN'T ME GETTING  
BEATEN BUT AOKI,  
IT WAS HARD FOR  
ME TO BREATHE—  
IF EVEN I FELT  
LIKE THAT AS A  
SPECTATOR,



I CAN ONLY  
IMAGINE WHAT  
HELL IT MUST'VE  
BEEN FOR HIM TO  
HEAR THAT IT'S  
HIS FAULT FROM  
HIS OWN MOTHER  
AND BEAR HER  
PUNCHES.

THEN  
AOKI...



MAKI-SAN,

HE'S STILL  
DEEP IN A  
PITCH DARK  
ABYSS...

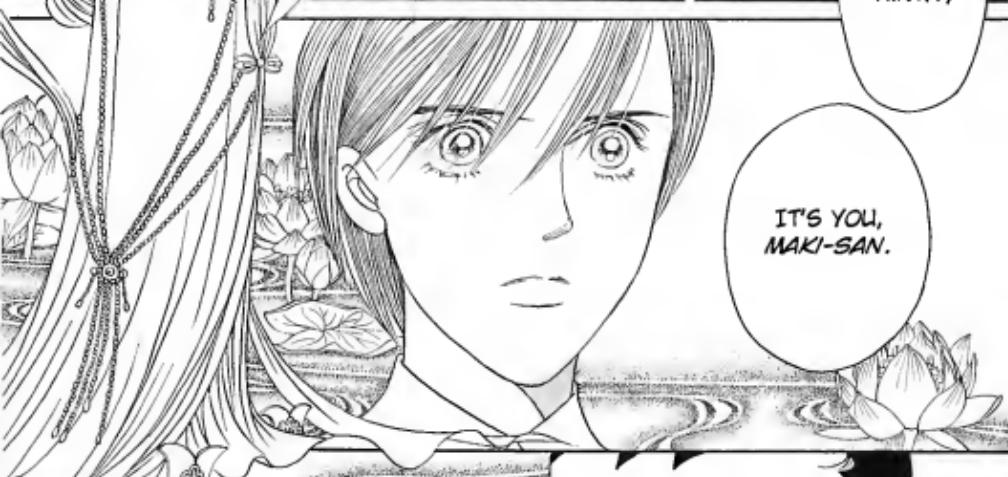




AOKI'S WRIGGLING  
IN THAT HELL,  
DESPERATELY  
TRYING TO GET  
OUT, CLINGING TO  
A THIN THIN  
SPIDER THREAD.  
THAT THREAD...



IS 'THE NINTH',



HE'S AN  
EARNEST MAN,  
AND HE'S  
PUTTING ALL HIS  
TRUST IN YOU.  
IT'S SUITABLE  
TO CALL IT A  
BLIND TRUST  
THOUGH.

In the  
future...

I'M SCARED  
FOR AOKI WHO  
CAN'T SEE OR  
BELIEVE IN  
ANYTHING BUT  
THAT SINGLE  
SPIDER THREAD.

THAT THE  
'SPIDER'S  
THREAD'  
YOU  
LOWERED  
FOR HIM  
WON'T BE  
SEVERED  
?

MAKI-SAN,  
CAN WE BE  
SURE,

Maki-  
san!

WE'LL BE  
ALWAYS  
WORKING  
TOGETHER,  
RIGHT?

Maki-  
san...

MAKI-  
SAN...  
CAN YOU  
SHOULD  
ER AOKI'S  
BLIND  
TRUST IN  
YOU?

ARE YOU  
ALRIGHT  
WITH IT?

GIVING HIM  
THE HOPE THAT  
'HE CAN GET  
REVENGE BY  
WORKING AND  
INVESTIGATING HIS  
SISTER'S VIOLENT  
DEATH'...

IS IT REALLY  
ALRIGHT?

ALLOWING  
HIM TO  
INVESTI-  
GATE IN  
THIS  
STATE...

Maki-  
san...

The world  
you're  
living in...

DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK  
IT IS?

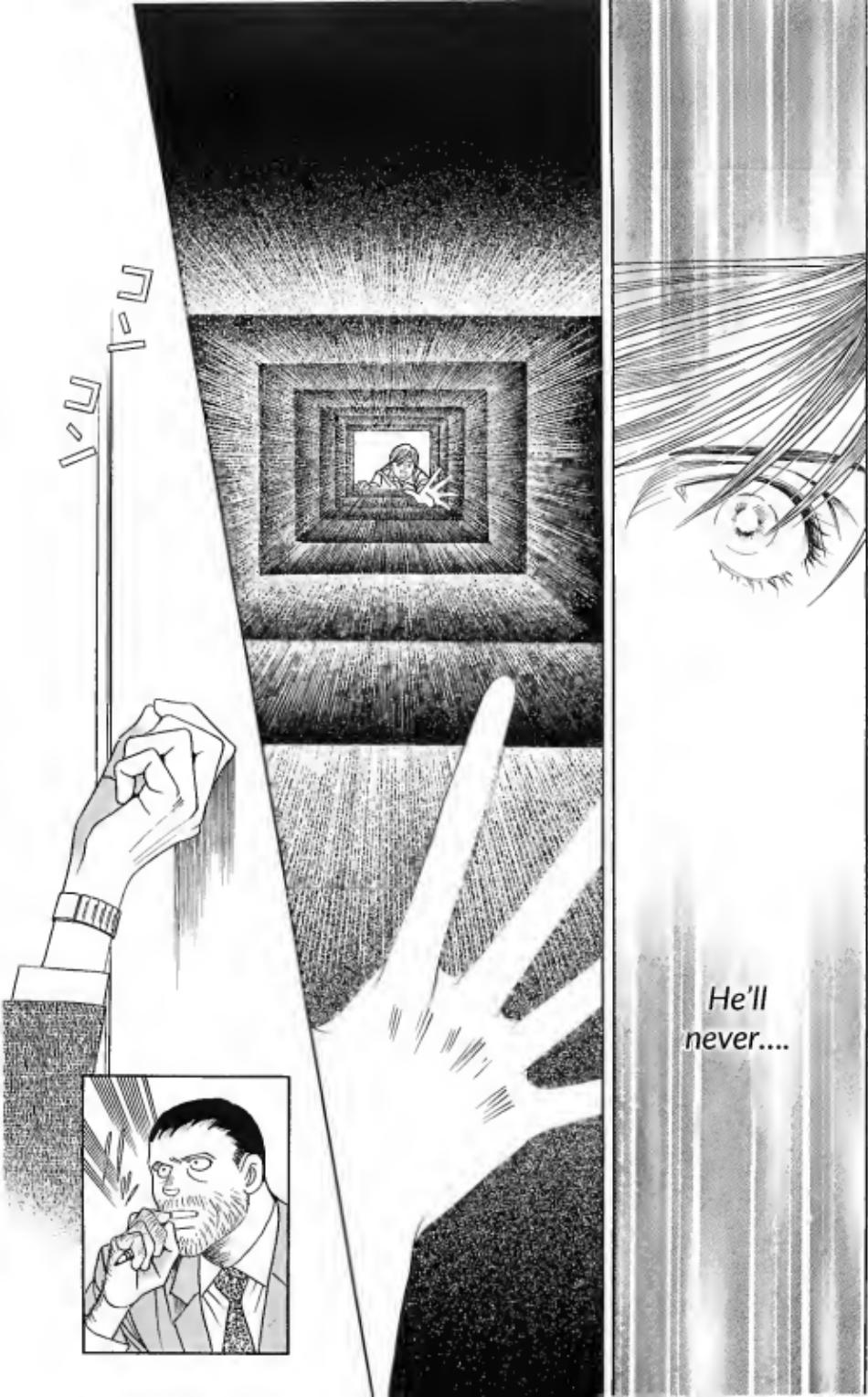
If,

Still hasn't gone  
amiss, right?



If by any chance, that thread is severed...





He'll  
never....

UM, AS  
PRESENTED

...



ALTHOUGH  
THIS CRIME  
WAS PLANNED  
IN GREAT  
DETAIL,

THE  
CIGARETTE  
BUTTS  
COVERED  
WITH  
DNA,

THE  
RAIN-COAT  
SPLATTERED  
WITH  
BLOOD,

THE  
FOOT-  
PRINTS,

A SINGLE  
MESSAGE  
CAN BE READ  
FROM THIS  
PROOF.  
THAT IS,

RATHER THAN  
SLOPPINESS,  
IT CAN BE  
INTERPRETED AS  
THE CRIMINAL  
LEAVING THEM  
INTENTIONALLY  
AS A PART OF  
HIS PLAN.

AS WELL  
AS MANY  
OTHER  
TRACES  
AND  
ITEMS  
WERE  
LEFT  
BEHIND.

Exempted?  
Why?

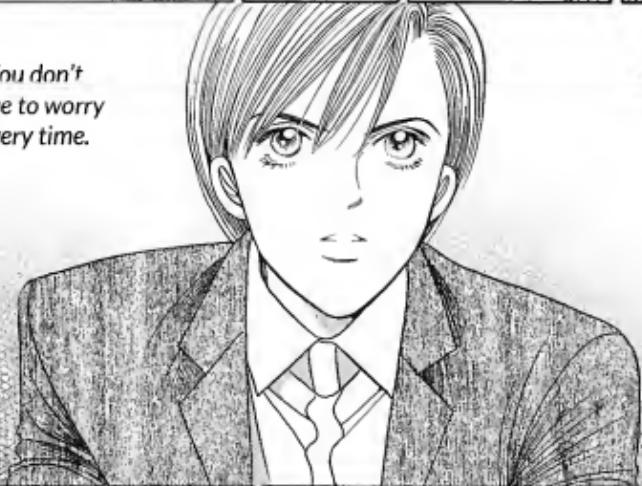
Shouldn't  
inspector  
Aoki be  
exempted  
from this  
meeting?

THAT  
...



You don't  
have to worry  
every time.

Sooner or later he'd  
hear about every-  
thing anyway,  
and all this  
information is  
important and  
related to his own  
investigation.



BUT  
DELIBERATELY  
LEFT CONTRARY  
EVIDENCE TO  
LATER ABSOLVE  
HIM.

THAT THE  
CRIMINAL SET UP  
THE FIRST WITNESS,  
INSPECTOR AOKI AS  
THE PERPETRATOR,







TOMORROW,  
'THE NINTH'  
IS MOVING ON  
TO THE MRI  
INVESTIGATION  
OF KURATSUJI  
MASANOBU AS  
WELL AS  
KURATSUJI  
WAKAKO.



WHY DID THE  
CULPRIT USE THE  
SAME MODUS  
OPERANDI AS IN  
THE 'HOUSEHOLD  
MASSACRE CASE'?



WHAT  
IS THE  
CONNECTION  
BETWEEN  
THESE  
CASES,



AND,



WHETHER THIS SPECULATION WAS CORRECT,

WHY DID THE CULPRIT INTENTIONALLY SPARE HIS TIME TO SCHEME INSPECTOR AOKI'S MISTAKEN ARREST, AS WELL AS WHETHER HE LEFT THE EVIDENCE ON PURPOSE,



WHY DID  
THE CULPRIT  
TARGET AND  
SLAUGHTER  
KURATSUJI  
HOUSEHOLD  
SPECIFICALLY...

WE'LL PUT  
OUR EFFORT TO  
ANSWER THESE  
QUESTIONS AND  
REPORT THEM  
BACK HERE.  
-THAT'S ALL.

THAT  
IS  
ALL!

THEN  
WE CAN  
DISMISS.  
EVERYONE  
LET'S GET  
TO WORK.



TAKIZAWA AND UNO'LL WATCH  
THE HUSBAND,  
KURATSUJI  
MASANOBU'S  
BRAIN,

JUST AS  
I SAID,  
FOR THE  
'MARRIAGE  
SLAUGHTERED  
IN EBISU'  
CASE,

AND  
KURATSUJI  
WAKAKO'S  
BRAIN WILL BE  
SUPERVISED  
BY ME...

AND  
YAMAMOTO.

OKABE,  
HELP AOKI  
REINVESTI-  
GATE THE  
'HOUSEHOLD  
MASSACRE'  
CASE.

SOGA  
AND KOIKE  
WILL  
ASSIST  
BOTH  
TEAMS.

Recently  
returned  
Takizawa  
was assigned  
instead of  
Okabe-san?

Y...  
YES!

THAT'S IT.  
TAKIZAWA,  
LINO,  
YAMAMOTO,  
WITH ME.

...

EXCUSE  
ME.

Nevermind  
me, but...

He skipped Koike-san and Soga-san, and even moved the highest-ranking Okabe-san and Imai-san to assist the rest...



DON'T WORRY  
...



UM,  
OKABE-  
SAN...

FROM THE START  
I'VE BEEN TOLD  
USUALLY THE  
SECTION CHIEF  
AND VICE SECTION  
CHIEF REPRE-  
SENTATIVE ARE  
APPOINTED WITH  
DIFFERENT  
SUBORDINATES...  
THAT'S  
PROBABLY  
ABOUT IT.

You too?

I'M SORRY...  
BECAUSE I  
WAS SELFISH,  
YOU WERE  
APPOINTED  
TO REINVE-  
STIGATING  
THE CASE  
WITH ME...  
SEPARATE  
FROM  
MAKI-SAN...

JUST...  
THIS MIGHT  
BE A TOUGH  
INVESTIGATION  
FOR YOU...  
WILL YOU  
BE OKAY?

OKABE-  
SAN,

YOUR  
MOTHER  
AND  
MIYOSHI-  
SAN...

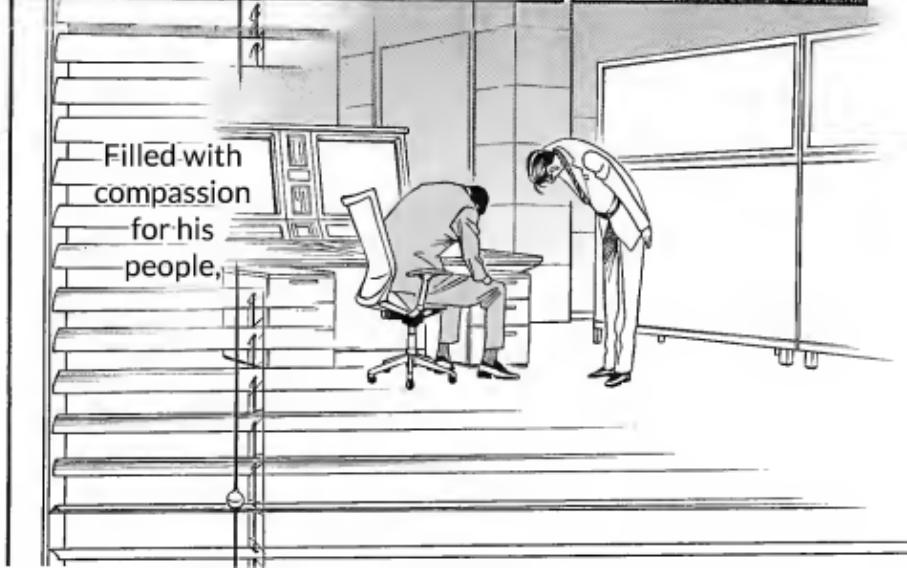
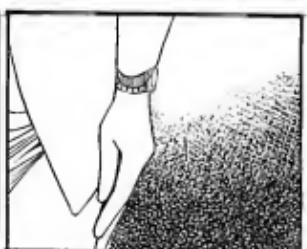
YEAH, SO DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT. IN HIS OWN  
WAY MAKI-SAN IS  
ACKNOWLEDGING THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THE  
'HOUSEHOLD MASSACRE  
CASE'... THERE MIGHT BE  
SOMETHING WE'VE  
OVERLOOKED OR SOME  
NEW FACTS RELATED TO  
THE CURRENT CASE.

IS  
THAT  
SO?

Aoki  
...

WHEN I LOST  
MY FATHER,  
YOU WERE  
CONCERNED FOR  
ME AS WELL...

A YEAR  
AGO,



Are you  
alright  
with  
that?

That  
imagination,  
tact, sharp  
instincts and  
awareness  
of the  
atmosphere...

Are  
you...

You won't  
sever that  
thread?

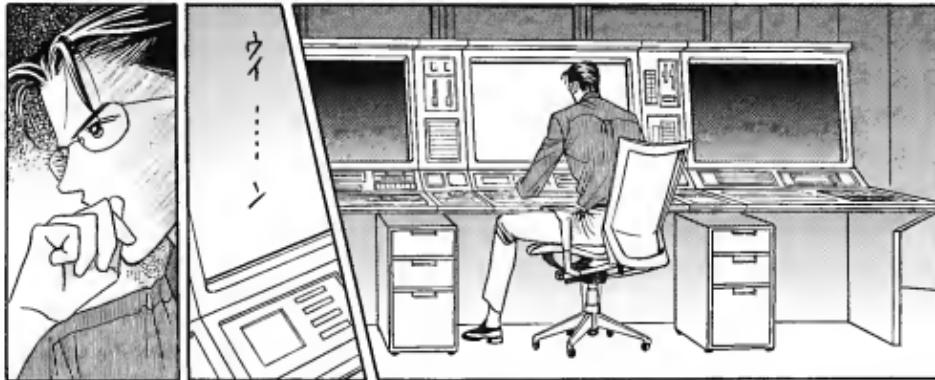
All these good  
qualities of  
Okabe...

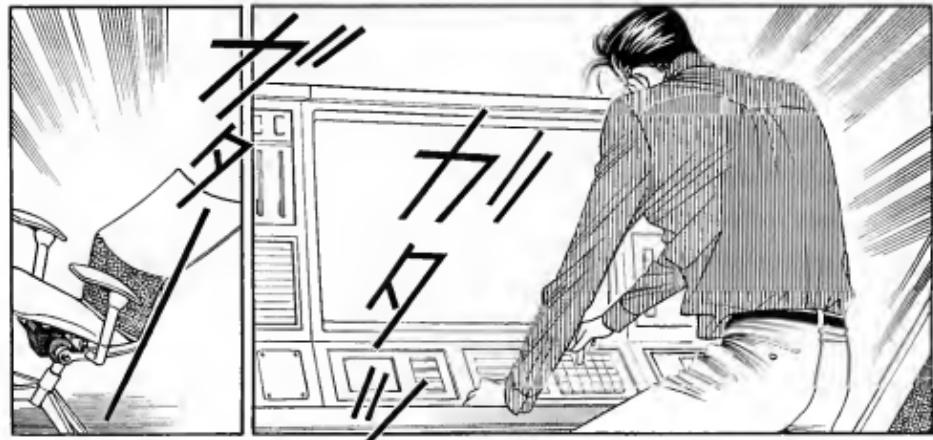
Would now  
become  
troublesome.

COULD WE  
GET YOUR  
ATTENTION  
NOW, CHIEF?

EVERYTHING'S  
READY.











YOU'RE NOT AS SIMILAR AS THEY SAY.  
SUZUKI WAS A MUCH MORE COMPOSED, THOUGHTFUL GUY.

I WAS CURIOUS WHEN I HEARD YOU GOT TOGETHER WITH THE MIYOSHI YUKIKO.

...  
HE'S BEEN PUTTING UP THAT FACE ALL HIS LIFE.

MAKI'S USED TO THAT KIND OF STUFF.



MIYOSHI YUKIKO WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM, AND HE FELT THE SAME.



IT'S BECAUSE  
MAKI CAN'T GET  
MARRIED.

And it's much harder now for the Ninth's staff to access level 4 restricted Suzuki-san's brain data, than it was two years ago...

But Suzuki's death and Takizawa's hospital admittance was around the same time... He couldn't have seen them.

OF COURSE IF  
MAKI HIMSELF  
WISHED SO HE  
COULD MARRY  
ANYTIME.  
-BLIT,

IT'S NOT A  
QUESTION OF  
HIS HEALTH  
OR BELIEFS,

IN HIS POSITION AS 'THE NINTH'S SECTION CHIEF, IT'S UNDESIRABLE.



BLUT...

BUT IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU, SAT, NINTH... THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL DUTIES.

YOU'D THINK IT'S AN ANACHRONISM NOWADAYS,

BECAUSE THEY COULD LEAK THE SECRETS TO THE FAMILY AND BECAUSE THE FAMILY BECOMES A WEAK POINT EASILY TARGETABLE BY ANY HOSTILE ORGANIZATION,



DUE TO THESE DUTIES' CONFIDENTIALITY, OR HOW DANGEROUS THEY ARE,

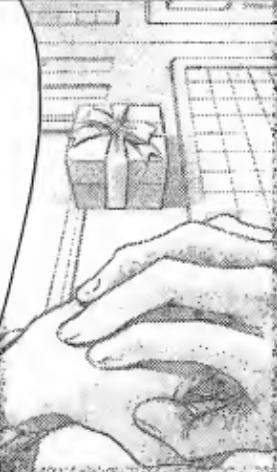
THESE PEOPLE  
CAN'T WISH  
FOR A FAMILY.  
WITH NO BLOOD  
RELATIVES,

AS WELL AS  
BECAUSE THE  
'LOVED ONES',  
'CHILDREN' AND  
SUCH WEAKEN  
THE RESOLVE TO  
PUT THEIR LIVES  
ON THE LINE  
WHILE FULFILLING  
SAID DUTIES,



PEOPLE ON  
POSITIONS SIMILAR  
TO MAKI'S STILL  
EXIST WITHIN THE  
POLICE.

WAS FALTERING  
BECAUSE HE'D  
BE THE ONLY  
ONE TO MARRY  
AND CREATE HIS  
FAMILY WHILE  
MAKI'D ALWAYS  
STAY ALL ALONE  
IN THIS WORLD.



MAKI'S  
SPECIAL  
NOT JUST  
BECAUSE OF  
HIS LOOKS  
OR ABILITIES.

THAT'S  
WHY  
SUZUKI..

What's  
wrong,  
Suzuki?

What  
is it?

WAIT!

PLEASE  
STOP!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
TELLING  
ME ALL  
THIS?

WHY ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT  
MAKI-SAN –  
WHY ARE YOU  
TELLING ME  
ABOUT ALL  
THE THINGS  
MAKI-SAN DIDN'T  
WANT TO TALK  
ABOUT?

DON'T YOU  
WANT TO  
KNOW  
ABOUT HIM?  
YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
HIM,  
RIGHT?

I  
DON'T  
WANT,

I WANT TO  
HEAR ABOUT  
MAKI-SAN  
FROM  
HIMSELF!

LIKE WHO  
WAS HE  
MEETING  
WITH AFTER  
THAT PARTY  
IN APRIL...

OR WHO IS  
HE ALWAYS...

IT'S JUST  
AS IF YOU...  
AS IF  
YOU'RE...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?  
MAKI-SAN  
ISN'T A  
SUSPECT!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
PROBING  
INTO ALL  
THIS?

GATHERING  
INFORMATION AND  
SNOOPING AROUND  
ARE BASICS FOR  
AN INVESTIGATOR,  
RIGHT?

BUT THE  
'PERSON IN  
QUESTION'  
IS HIDING THE  
FACTS.



IT'S NOT  
ABOUT  
PUBLIC  
SAFETY OR  
THE POLICE!

IT'S ABOUT  
PERSONAL  
PRINCIPLES!





*There are many things about you he's attracted to...*

*The duties assigned to people with no blood relatives...*

*Take good care of Yukiko-san...*

*I feel like I get why Tsuyoshi-kun likes you so much...*

*If something happened,*

*While Maki'd always stay all alone in this world...*

*WOULD YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY?*

*IF SOMETHING HAPPENED,*

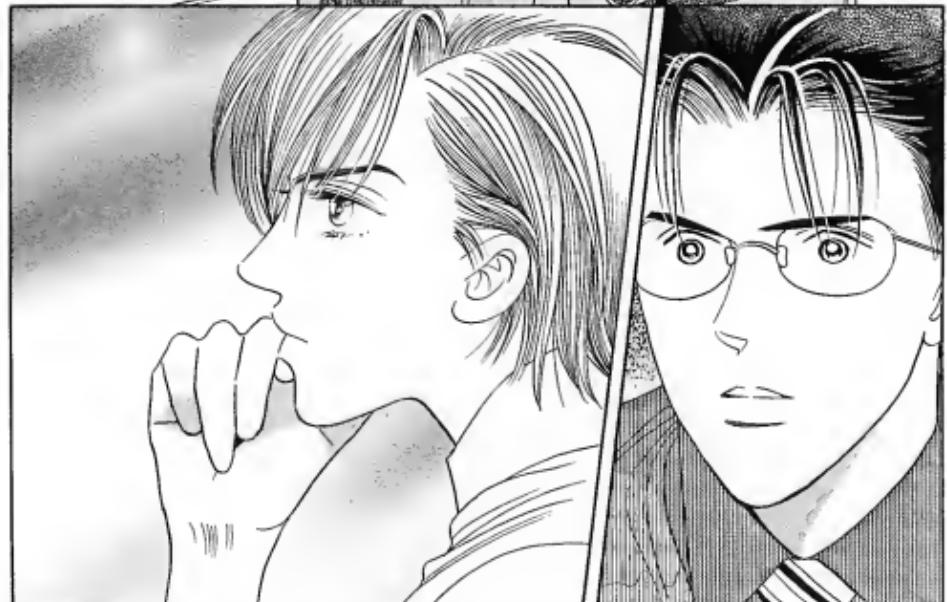
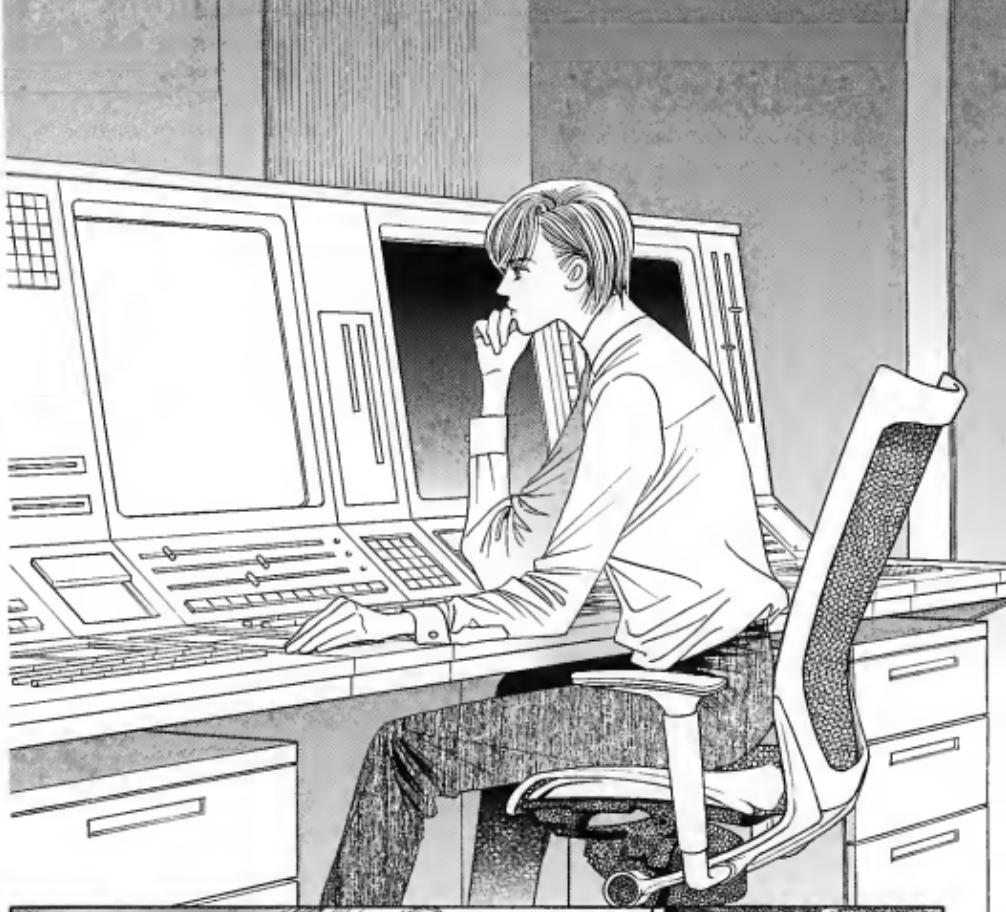
*ARE YOU CONFIDENT YOU'D BE ABLE TO PROTECT HER?*

*Would you have the strength to take the responsibility, and protect people?*



*Are you  
saying you  
have that  
resolve?*











And I understood that I must be wearing a really pathetic expression.

Maki-san who stood up from his seat and came to me had his brows furrowed slightly in worry,



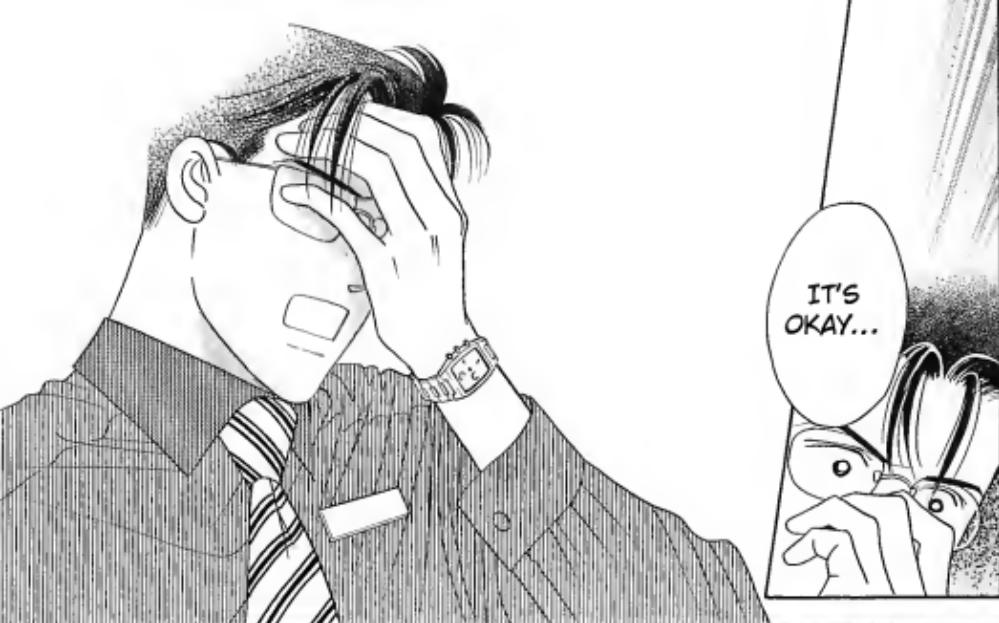
INSTEAD  
OF YOU...

I'LL  
WATCH...

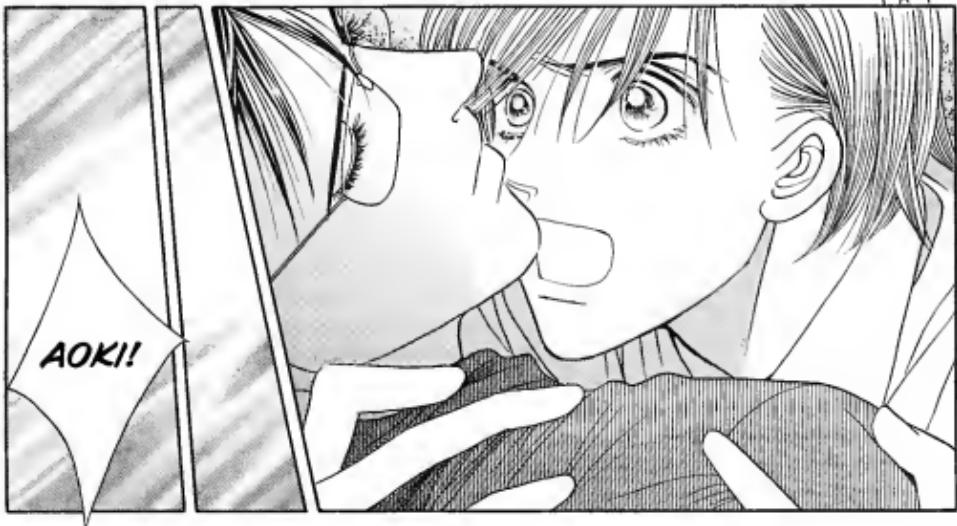


SO DON'T  
WORRY...

I'LL WATCH  
EVERYTHING AND INVE-  
STIGATE IT PROPERLY.











Five  
days  
since  
the  
incident.

July  
23rd

With no  
suspects,  
the MRI  
investigation  
of Kuratsuji  
Masanobu  
and Kuratsuji  
Wakako  
begins.

# Isionka Scans

Translation&Typesetting: Isia  
Proofreading: Margot

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